

Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

- 5 1. A fishing apparatus comprising,
 - a float,
 - a first fishing line having a proximate end for securing for retrieval by an angler and a distal end,
 - a second fishing line having a proximate end and a distal end for supporting
10 a fish catching device,
 - a spring biased leader supported by the float connecting the distal end of the first fishing line and the proximate end of the second fishing line, the spring biased leader including a spring which can stretch from an unextended length to an extended length and a non-resilient leader line which is longer than the unextended
15 length of the spring, the spring and the leader line communicating between the distal end of the first fishing line and proximate end of the second fishing line in a parallel fashion so that the extended length of the spring biased leader is limited by the leader line when the leader line is taut,
 - whereby, a fish striking and taking the fish catching device may first pull
20 against the float, then cause extension of the spring biased leader until the leader line is taut and then pull against the first fishing line via the leader line fo the spring biased leader.

2. The fishing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising,

a first barrel swivel for connecting the distal end of the first fishing line with the spring and leader line of the spring biased leader and a second barrel swivel for connecting the spring and leader line of the spring biased leader with the proximate end of the second fishing line.

3. The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein,

a first barrel swivel having a widest portion with a diameter greater than the spring of the spring biased leader connects between the distal end of the first fishing line and the spring and between the distal end of the first fishing line and the leader line of the spring biased leader and a second barrel swivel having a widest portion with a diameter greater than the spring biased leader connects between the spring and the proximate end of the second fishing line and between the leader line of the spring biased leader and the proximate end of the second fishing line, and

wherein the float includes a passageway extending therethrough having a length that is shorter than the leader line of the spring biased leader and a diameter that is both greater than the spring of the spring biased leader and less than the diameters of the widest portions of the first or second barrel swivels, the passageway receiving the spring biased leader such that the first and second barrel swivels are disposed at opposite ends of the passageway.

4. A fishing apparatus, comprising:

a buoyant float for floating in a body of water, the buoyant float having a top surface and a bottom surface and a substantially straight and vertical passageway extending between the top and bottom surfaces,

a first link element for placement above the passageway of the float for receiving one end of a first fishing line, the first link element having a widest portion larger than the passageway diameter,

a second link element for placement below the passageway of the float for receiving one end a second fishing line having an opposite free end for carrying a fish catching device, the second link element also having a widest portion larger than the passageway diameter,

a spring biased leader including a spring and a generally non-resilient leader line, the spring passing through the float passageway for connecting the first link element and the second link element, the spring for extending between an unextended length and an extended length, and the leader line also passing through the passageway and also connecting the first link element and the second link element, the leader line having a length which is greater than the unextended length of the spring and sufficient to allow extension of the spring when the second link element moves away from the first link element,

whereby, a fish biting and pulling at the distal end of the second fishing line pulls upon the spring biased leader causing the spring to extend until the non-

resilient leader line is taut thus preventing further extension of the spring and thus opposing the forces applied by the fish with progressively increasing tension.

5. The fishing apparatus of claim 4, wherein,

5 the first and second link elements are barrel swivels.

6. The fishing apparatus of claim 4, wherein,

 the leader line is at least one inch longer than the spring when the spring is not extended and the spring has a spring constant of at least four pounds force per
10 inch of extension.

7. The fishing apparatus of claim 4, wherein,

 the leader line is at least one inch longer than the spring when the spring is not extended and the spring has a spring constant of substantially between six and
15 ten pounds force per inch of extension.

8. The fishing apparatus of claim 4, wherein,

the upper surface of the float includes a raised portion and the passageway extends between the raised portion and the lower surface of the float.

5 9. The fishing apparatus of claim 4, wherein,

the upper surface of the float includes a raised portion and the lower surface of the float includes a recessed portion and the passageway extends between the raised portion of the upper surface and recessed portion of the lower surface.

10 10. The fishing apparatus of claim 4, wherein,

the float is hollow and includes a valve for equalizing air pressure within the float with air pressure outside of the float.

11. The fishing apparatus of claim 4, wherein,

15 the float is hollow and includes a valve for equalizing air pressure within the float with air pressure outside of the float, and,

the upper surface of the float includes a raised portion and the lower surface of the float includes a recessed portion and the passageway extends between the raised portion of the upper surface and recessed portion of the lower surface.

20 12. A method for deploying an unattended fishing line having a fishing line with a fish catching device disposed at the end thereof, comprising the steps of,

(a) obtaining a float,

(b) associating a first link element with the float such that the float supports the first link element,

(c) connecting a first fishing line to the first link element,

(d) connecting the first link element to a spring which can extend between an unextended length and an extended length,

(e) connecting the first link element to a substantially non-resilient leader line having a length greater than the unextended length of the spring,

(f) connecting a second link to the ends of the spring and the leader line opposite the first link,

(g) connecting to the second link a second fishing line having a fish catching device at its distal end,

(h) connecting the first fishing line to a fixed object for later retrieval, and,

(i) placing the float and the second fishing line in a body of water suitable for fishing.

13. A method for claim 12, wherein,

the first and second links are barrel swivels.

14. A method for claim 12, wherein,

the first and second links are first and second barrel swivels which each have a widest portion larger in diameter than the spring,

the float includes a passageway having a diameter larger than the diameter of the spring and smaller than the widest portions of the swivels, and,

the spring and the leader line pass through the passageway of the float and the first and second barrel swivels are connected to each end of the leader line and the spring.

15. A method for claim 12, wherein,

the leader line is at least one inch longer than the spring when unextended and the spring has a spring constant of at least four pounds force per inch of extension.